



The Office of Special Education (OSE) has received numerous questions from the field regarding the use of paraprofessionals in the current COVID-19 environment. Schools may want to reexamine the use of paraprofessionals across different learning modes including: in-school, hybrid, and virtual. The following resources may be useful as you determine how to best utilize your paraprofessional staff.

[Paraprofessional Information and Requirements for Indiana](#)

Updated for the 2020-21 school year, the United States Department of Education (USDOE) has approved the Indiana Department of Education's request to allow LEAs who meet the requirements to utilize the more flexible state defined paraprofessional requirements for highly-qualified rather than the current federal requirements. See options for [paraprofessional requirements](#).

Any instructional paraprofessional employed after January 8, 2002, must either have completed two years of college, hold a two-year degree, or pass a state or local assessment. Complete information can be found in the [Non-Regulatory Guidance issued by the US Department of Education](#).

For instructional paraprofessionals in Indiana districts and schools receiving Title I funds, Indiana adopted the ParaPro Assessment developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Instructional Assistants with less than two years of college will be required to successfully complete this assessment. Additional information regarding the test, including registration materials, can be found on the [ETS website](#).

USDOE suggests partnering with higher education and other relevant partners (see list below) to explore initiatives that can increase continued education and licensure opportunities for paraprofessionals (some states and communities have launched “grow your own” efforts).

[Indiana Resource Network \(IRN\) supports](#)

In partnership with OSE, the IRN provides resources and support to paraprofessionals in a variety of areas.

- [Project SUCCESS](#)
 - Free pre-recorded paraprofessional webinars
 - Link to all webinar series can be found on the [Project SUCCESS website](#); as well as the [registration link](#) for the webinar series
 - Currently, on the [Project SUCCESS website](#) paraprofessionals can access the following webinars: Understanding Culture and Bias, Effective Paraprofessional and Teacher Collaboration and High Expectations
 - To receive a certificate for two PGPs, paraprofessionals follow these following steps:

115 W. Washington Street ■ South Tower, Suite 600 ■ Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

317.232.6610 ■ www.doe.in.gov

- Watch the selected webinar on the [Project SUCCESS website](#)
- Complete the webinar form, containing questions related to the webinar content.
 - Open in another browser window while you watch the webinar; or
 - Complete the form after viewing the webinar.
- Submit the completed form and a certificate will be emailed to the address you provided the next business day.
- [INSOURCE](#), the Indiana Resource Center for Families with Special Needs
 - Confidentiality training for paraprofessionals
- [The Indiana Resource Center for Autism \(IRCA\)](#)
 - Regional, district, and virtual workshops for paras that are affordable
 - Website that includes practical articles and free visual supports for both educators and paraprofessionals
 - Free newsletter that includes articles and notices about training events
 - IRCA staff are available to answer questions that may arise
 - Staff are available to answer any questions by contacting [Dr. Cathy Pratt](#)
- [The Indiana Center on Teacher Quality \(ICTQ\)](#)
 - Universal modules and targeted training for educators and paraprofessionals
- [IEP Resource Center](#)
 - Paraprofessional training is available by request
- [Indiana Deafblind Services Project](#)
 - Information on Interveners and details on how individuals can request to utilize the [training modules](#)
- [PATINS Online Trainings](#)
- [HANDS in AUTISM courses](#)
- [Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education](#)
 - Contact for paraprofessionals resources: cdhhe@isdh.in.gov
- [The Indiana School Mental Health Initiative \(ISMHI\)](#)
 - Website that includes free videos and information on a range of topics that address social, emotional, learning and mental health that may be useful for both educators and paraprofessionals
 - Virtual and in person training that is affordable
 - Free newsletter
 - Network of behavior consultants that can serve as a resource for paraprofessionals
 - Staff are available to answer any questions by contacting [Dr. Cathy Pratt](#)
- Additional national Professional Development and/or PGPs for educators
 - [IRIS Center modules](#)
 - [Free Online Trainings from Pennsylvania](#)
 - [Free Online Trainings from Virginia TTAC \(searchable by topic\)](#)
 - [OCALI Free Professional Development Modules](#)